gathers periodic intelligence regarding such frauds and disseminates the same to all the Custom Houses in the country.

Various safeguards have been in-built in the export promotion schemes to prevent misuse. Some of these are as follows:—

(i) Licences issued under Advance Licensing Scheme are subject to actual user condition and are non-transferable.

(ii) Capital goods imported under EPCG Scheme are subject to actual user condition till fulfillment of export obligation.

(iii) A close nexus is specified for duty free import under DFRC Scheme.

(iv) In respect of items having DEPB rate of 17% or above, value cap is specified to prevent unintended benefit. Instructions already exist for verification of Present Market Value (PMV) in respect of products having DEPB rate of 10% or more and the exporter is required to give a declaration that the benefit under DEPB Scheme shall not exceed 50% of PMV. In fact in respect of "Floppy Diskette", which has rate of 2% only, value cap has been imposed due to sensitivity of the product which may contain proprietary software and thus fetch a very high value.

(v) Caps have been specified in All industry Rate of Drawback to prevent availment of higher drawback by over-invoicing. Present Market Value checks have also been provided for goods exported to sensitive destinations.

Effect of terrorism on tourism

*232. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be plesed to state:

(a) whether tourism was very much affected at different places of the country due to U.S. attacks on Afghanistan during September to November, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State and Union Territory-wise and month-wise with earnings made from this sector;

(c) whether tourism has also been very much affected due to daily terrorists attacks in different parts of the country during 2000-2002;

(d) whether Government propose to take steps to ensure that tourism is not affected in future in the circumstances as mentioned in parts (a) and (c) above; and

(e) if so, the details and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) The Indian tourism has been adversely affected following the terrorist attack in the United States and the subsequent events.

(b) The details of the flow of foreign tourists to India during the period September to November for the years 2000 and 2001 are as follows:—

Months	Foreign	Tourist Arrivals	Percentage change
2000	2000	2001	
September	180070	162326	-9.9 -
October	230978	181605	21.4 -
November	290201	209685	27.7

The estimated foreign exchange earnings has declined from Rs.3511 crores during the period September to November 2000 to Rs. 2824 crores during September to November of the year 2001. State/Union Territory-wise effect on tourism due to the attack is not available.

(c) There has been a positive growth of 6.7% during the year 2000 in flow of foreign tourists to the country as compared to year 1999. However, a negative growth of 4.2% was estimated during the year 2001 as compared to the year 2000. A negative growth of 17.3% was estimated in foreign tourist arrivals to the country during the period January and February 2002 as compared to the same period of the year 20001.

(d) and (e) Various steps taken to ensure that tourism is not affected in future include:

□ Confidence building measures in the Overseas Markets through the India Tourism Offices.

a India Tourism Offices, abroad have been advised to project India as a 'safe and secure' destination through overseas multi-media campaigns, organisation of fam tours for overseas tour operators/ media, publicity of road shows etc.

Overseas Press was apprised that India is located far away from Afghanistan and the centre of the current conflict.

□ Ministry of External Affairs have been requested that Overseas Indian Mission may be advised to project India as a 'safe and secure' destination to travel.

Revival of Biecco Lawrie

*233. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Biecco Lawrie is being referred to BIFR again;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to revive the same;

(d) whether any scheme has been forwarded by the Company to Government; and

(e) if so, the action taken by Government on the same?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (e) The net-worth of M/s. Biecco Lawrie Limited became negative as on 31st March, 2001 and in accordance with the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA), the company became sick and hence the company submitted application on 5th March, 2002 for registration with the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR).

(a) The company had submitted a proposal for financial assistance to the Ministry. However, Government decided to refer the company to Ministry of Disinvestment for disinvestment.